



Colonial Pipeline CR251 Rupture Pelham, Shelby County, Alabama Situation Report #2

November 1, 2016

1700

NRC #1162982

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

On October 31 at 1455 hours, a Colonial Pipeline contractor struck a 36" below ground transmission gasoline pipeline (Line 1) while finishing a permanent repair necessitated by the previous pipeline rupture that occurred on September 9. The gasoline pipeline exploded and caught fire. At 1656 hours, Colonial Pipeline reported the incident to the National Response Center. One worker was fatally injured and six workers were transported to local hospitals.

The exact amount of the release is unknown; however, Colonial Pipeline has estimated that between 3,300 and 4,000 barrels of gasoline were released. Both main pipelines were shut down. The local fire department responded and contained the fire around the ruptured site. The Alabama Forestry Commission and Shelby County Highway Department constructed an earthen berm to contain the gasoline and cut a fire break. The fire continues to burn at this time. Line 2 was restarted at 2250 hours on October 31 at a reduced rate.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Shelby County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Department of Interior (DOI) Region 4, have been notified. EPA, ADEM, Colonial Pipeline, and local emergency responders are on scene and have integrated into the Unified Command (UC).

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PIO Pinkney and OSC Jardine conducted an on-camera interview with various media outlets.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

EPAs integration into the Colonial Pipeline Incident Command structure will provide myriad benefits to the response and further ensure operations run successfully. This will be accomplished through working directly with the Environmental Unit on sampling and monitoring, the Planning Section, safety, and with overall operations related to this unfortunate incident. The incident management structure is as follows:

- OSC Karen Buerki has integrated into Unified Command.
- OSCs Booth, Jardine, and Harper have integrated into the Planning Section, Operations Section, and the Environmental Unit.
- PIO James Pinkney coordinated information requests in the Joint Information Center (JIC).

- The United States Coast Guard (USCG) Gulf Strike Team (GST) will be embedding into the Operations Sections.
- Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) is becoming embedded in the Environmental Unit and Situation Unit.

Current number	Number
EPA	5
USCG GST	4
START	4
Total Response Personnel	approximately 120

CURRENT RELEASE AND RECOVERY ESTIMATES

Current Release Estimate – 3,300 bbl to 4,000 bbls¹

REPORTING SCHEDULE

Situation Reports (SITREPS) will be delivered daily at 1700 hours EST.

CURRENT OPERATIONS

1) Environmental Sampling and Impacts

a. Air Monitoring

- CTEH continued performing 24-hour mobile air monitoring along Highway 13, River Road, and near the homes located northwest of the incident area. Air monitoring results through 1200 hours on November 1 indicated no detections above site action levels, except for particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less (PM2.5). Air monitoring results indicated spikes in the PM2.5 community (0.138 mg/m3) and worker (0.351 mg/m3) action levels near the fire along River Road and near the residences located northwest of the incident area.
- CTEH continued performing mobile air monitoring throughout the populated areas along the northern perimeter of the ruptured area. Air monitoring results indicated no detections above background levels. CTEH developed an area air sampling plan for approval.

b. Water/Sediment Sampling and National Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA)

- Colonial Pipeline contractor began preparing a water and sediment sampling plan, as well as, performing a natural resources damage assessment (NRDA).
- Environmental Planning Specialists (EPS) began collocated water and sediment sampling at five locations along the Cahaba River, three locations along Shades Creek, and at one location at the pond located southeast of the incident area.

¹ 1 barrel (bbl) = 42 gallons

- Conducted review of site surface water, sediment, and air sampling plans.

2) Local Response Actions

- Local fire personnel monitor the fire as it continues to burn. There are five homes housing eight residents located near the incident area. Two of the residents were initially evacuated from the incident area but were allowed to return home. Six of the residents remained sheltered in place. Local fire personnel will continue to monitor the area in the event those residents need evacuation.
- Shelby County EMA initially requested that the Shelby County Sheriff Department restrict the air space (3,000 feet above and a 3 mile radius) around the incident area until 1000 hours on November 2. Shelby County Sheriff Department reduced the air space restriction to 1,500 feet and a 1.5 mile radius around the incident area at 1200 hours on November 1.
- Local fire personnel monitored the fire during the night through the afternoon as it continued to burn.
- Conducted aerial surveillance of the incident via drone.
- Completed set up of staging area in Woodstock, Alabama.

3) Health and Safety

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) personnel mobilized to the Scene to conduct site incident investigation.

4) Communications

- Improved site communications via installation of Southern Link Communication-Sites-on-Wheel (COW).
- Convened Regional Response Team via teleconference at 1030 hours CDT.
- Congressman Gary Palmer toured site activities.
- Participated in a Unified Command press conference in Helena, Alabama, at 1345 hours CDT. There have no visible impacts to the surface waters from the incident.

5) Fuel Supply

- Region 4 is working with EPA Headquarters to address any fuel waiver requests from the impacted States.

PLANNED RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- Complete installation of booms in Shades Creek, Living River, and Cahaba River.
- Begin water and sediment sampling. Continue water and sediment sampling every two days at 5 locations along the Cahaba River, three locations along the Shades Creek and one location at the pond southeast of the incident area. Sampling frequency and locations may change based on movement of product.
- Continue to improve site communications via Communication-Sites-on-Wheels (COWs).

- Continue efforts to evacuate the pipeline and excavate threaded O-rings (TOR).
- Complete installation of interceptor trench and underflow dam in the pond southeast of the incident area.
- Complete preparation of the Product Disposal Plan (PDP).
- Continue air monitoring and sampling through CTEH.
- Continue to provide aerial surveillance via drone.
- Complete preparation of the Restoration of Services Plan (RSP).
- Continue preparation for media release.